Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018 | 10 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 16

2017 – A Veat in Review & December

OBITUARIES

KAITLYN MARIE SCHLICHER

Kaitlyn Marie Schlicher, 8 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 8:23 pm Thursday, November 2, 2017 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. She was born February 25, 2009 in Fort Madison, the



SCHLICHER

Kaitlyn was in the 3rd grade at Richardson Elementary School, Fort Madison. She enjoyed playing with her pets, making crafts, her Barbies,

daughter of Jennifer Marie Buechel

Originally published November 5, 2017 music, and dressing up. She liked

being funny and telling jokes. She loved to give to others.

and F. James Schlicher.

She is survived by her parents, grandparents: Ted and Debbie Buechel, Luddie and Randy Lumsden, and Manuel Salazar, all of Fort Madison; aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Visitation will be from 4:00 - 5:30 pm Monday, November 6, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Her funeral will follow and begin at 5:30 pm at the funeral home with Pastor Les Featheringill officiating. Following the service, her body will be cremated. A private burial will be at a later date at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Schlicher/Buechel family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

FM man critical | Looking after accident

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY - A 46-year-old Fort Madison man is in critical condition after an early morning accident just north of Fort Madison.

Lee County deputies responded to a one-vehicle

motorcydent in block Avenue cording from the office, driven by

Jay Wells

Originally published November 14, 2017

cle accithe 2000 of 290th where, acto a report sheriff's a vehicle Richard left the

gravel roadway on a curve near a residential drive and struck a street sign causing him to be ejected from the vehicle.

Wells was southbound on 290th Avenue and, after being ejected from the motorcycle, Wells struck the guideline to a utility pole.

He was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital and then transferred to Blessing Hospital in Quincy in critical condition with life threatening injuries.

No additional information was available at this

Test drive turns into two-state chase

Area duo flees in Cadillac Escalade, caught in Missouri

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

ALEXANDRIA - A test drive at the Fort Madison Shottenkirk CarSmart dealership turned into theft and drug charges for a Montrose man and woman on Wednesday.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office reported Thursday, the arrest of Jacob Anthony Haage, 24 of Montrose, and Bonita Nicole Duncan, 37, of Keokuk. Haage was arrested on three felonies, tampering with a motor vehicle 1st-degree, delivery of a controlled substance - 35 grams or less of marijuana, and possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

Duncan was arrested on two felonies, delivery of a controlled substance - 35 grams or less of marijuana and possession of a



HAAGE

controlled substance (methamphetamine).

On Monday, Haage allegedly arrived at the Shottenkirk Car Smart in Fort Madison, Iowa, and asked to test drive a black 2005 Cadillac Escalade. Management from the Fort Mad-

ison Shottenkirk Car Smart dealership later contacted the Fort Madison Police Department and reported Haage had test driven the vehicle but had not returned it 24 hours later.

Fort Madison police started an investigation and notified other local law enforcement agencies of the stolen vehicle and vehicle description.

Wednesday evening, an officer with the Keokuk Police Department attempted to make a traffic stop on Haage, but he refused to stop, which led to a pursuit into Clark County, Mo.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office contacted the Clark County Sheriff's office at 10:57 p.m. and reported an officer with the Keokuk Police Department and a Lee County deputy had just entered

Clark County in pursuit of a stolen vehicle. Lee County then reported a few minutes later the vehicle stopped at 10:59 p.m. on East Taylor Street in Alexandria, Clark County, Missouri, and Haage exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Haage was located at 11 p.m. and was detained until Clark County deputies arrived at 11:12 p.m. A white female passenger was later identified in the vehicle as Duncan.

Haage and Duncan were both placed under arrest at 11:30p.m. and transported by Clark County deputies to the Clark County Deten-

See CHASE, page 9

Originally published

November 3, 2017

back on 2017

Editors Note:

As the year comes to a close, it is customary to look back at the stories that affected us throughout the year. Being an all-digital newspaper with multiple social media channels, we have many avenues to consider when deciding to review the year behind us.

We chose to feature the Top 10 Best Read news articles from our website pencitycurrent.com and the Top 10 Facebook posts that impressed the most readers from each month.

Each issue of 2017 – A Year in Review will feature two months of these stories as they originally appeared.

These stories touched thousands of lives this year, whether they were heartbreaking or heartwarming, good news or bad.

We hope you enjoy looking back on the year with us as we usher in a new year filled with new stories. You can rest assured Pen City Current will be reporting those stories in a factu al, unbiased way in the manner you've become accustomed to - whether you're reading them on our website, on our mobile app, in our e-Edition, or in any of our social media channels.

We thank you for your patronage and wish you a peaceful new year.

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Advertiser Index Boulders Inn & Suites Fort Madison......P.10 CBIZ Center for Business......P.4 Iris City CleanersP.8 Dave's Old Fashion MeatsP.5 Dodd Printing & StationeryP.7 State Farm Insurance – Thomas Klann......P.3 Eternelle Beaute – Sarah Harworth......P.8 Fareway Food Stores Fort MadisonP.9 The KensingtonP.6 Farm Bureau Financial ServicesP.7 The Madison / Rodeo Park RehabP.5 Fullenkamp InsuranceP.6 Green Oak Development......P.7 WebeSalsaP.6 West Liberty Foods......P.10 Griffin Muffler & Brake CenterP.2 Hill Side InnP.8 Your Heat & Air guyP.3

OBITUARIES

CORYE EUGENE GRAPE

Corye Eugene Grape, 44, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 2:52 a.m. on Friday, November 24, 2017 at Great River Medical Center in West Burlington,



IA. He was born on March 4, 1973 in Topeka, KS to Christopher & Dianna (Eldridge) Grape. He married Lori D. Hawkins on May 31, 2003 in Fort Madison, IA. He was a fork truck driver at Pinnacle Foods with 21 years of service. He enjoyed spending time with his family in his backyard, helping others, cooking, playing horseshoes, traveling, riding his Harley Davidson, roofing, showing off his truck and working on vehicles.

Corye is survived by: his wife: Lori Grape of Fort Madison, IA; 3-daughters: Samantha (Ryan Mowder) Grape of Oquawka, IL, Shelby (Josh Hayes) Richers of

Fort Madison, IA & Kori (Chadlin Smith) Grape of Hamilton, IL; 1-son: Micky M. Grape of Fort Madison, IA; 3-grandchildren: Rileigh Mowder, Natalie Hayes & Joshua Hayes Jr.; 1-granddaughter on the way: Brooklynn Mowder; 1-sister: Dawn (Shawn) Eid of Fort Madison, IA; 3-brothers: Tony Lumsden of Fort Madison, IA, James (Jennifer) Schlicher of Fort Madison, IA & David (Amanda) Gaggero of Wichita, KS; his parents: Christopher (Christy



Originally published November 27, 2017

Cameron) Grape of Belton, MO & Manuel (Suzy Butler) Salazar of Fort Madison, IA and his grandmother: Alice Jean Townsend. He was preceded in death by: his mother: Dianna Salazar, 1-brother: Micky L. Grape, his maternal grandparents & paternal grandfather.

The family will receive friends from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, with the funeral service to immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. all at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. A private family burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Following the burial, the family will receive friends at Shopton Park. A memorial has been established in Corye's memory. Online condolences to the Grape family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

3 Lee County residents arrested on drug charges

BY PCC STAFF

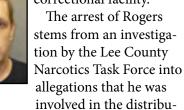
LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest

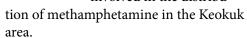
> of three Keokuk, Iowa residents on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Dustin Ray Rogers, 26,



MCNITT

okuk, Iowa was arrested on November 22, 2017 at the Lee County Sheriff's Office on a felony drug warrant. Rogers is charged with delivery of methamphetamine less than five grams within 1000 feet of a park, a class C felony with an enhancement. If convicted, Rogers faces up to 15 years in a state correctional facility.





In an unrelated matter, the Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrests of Ashley Lynn Reed, 30, and Michael Damien McNitt, 26, both of 312 North 11th Street, Keokuk, Iowa were

arrested on November 26, 2017 at their residence on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. McNitt is charged with maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor. If convicted, McNitt faces up to 2 years in a state correctional facility. Reed is charged with possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine in excess of five grams, a class B felony, drug tax stamp violation, a class D felony, possession of a controlled substance (amphetamine and dextroamphetamine), a serious misdemeanor, maintain-

ing a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor, possession of marijuana, a

serious



Originally published November 27, 2017

misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Reed faces up to 34 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrests of Reed and McNitt stem from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that they were involved in the use and distribution of illegal drugs in the Keokuk area. A search warrant was served

See **TASK FORCE**, page 8



Councilman Seidel arrested on felony drug charge

Council action may wait for case to run its course

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - A sitting Fort Madison city councilman has been charged with a class C felony drug charge and was taken into custody today.



Travis Seidel, who represents Fort Madison's 3rd ward, was arrested by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force Friday and charged with two counts of distributing hydromorphone, also known as

Dilaudid, Hydrostat, Palladone, Dillies, hospital heroin, within 1000 feet of a school.

The charge is a Class C felony with an enhancement. If convicted Seidel could face up to 15 years in a state correctional facility.

According to a release from the task force, the arrest stems from an investigation by the task force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of controlled substances in the Lee

County area.

Originally published December 10, 2017

Mayor Brad Ran-

dolph said he was as disappointed as he was shocked.

"I just found out about an hour ago and my initial reaction is that I'm equally disappointed and shocked. It's unfortunate, and he's innocent until proven guilty, but I need to get all the relevant



RANDOLPH

information and have a sit down with city staff and the council, and reach out to Travis and see what his thoughts are and after that go down a path that is best for the city," Randolph said Friday afternoon.

"It's not reflective of what we want from a city council member. We're held to a higher standard. I find it unfortunate. If what they say happened, happened it's unfortunate."

City Manager David Varley said a city code doesn't make the arrest an auto-

See **ARREST**, page 8

Top November Stories #6-10

Vicki J. Vermazen obituary

Originally published November 29, 2017

Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/11/28/ vigen-memorial-obituary-vicki-j-vermazen-59-montrose/

Keokuk, Missouri men nabbed on meth charges

Originally published November 8, 2017

Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/11/06/ two-arrested-keokuk-drug-charges/

Rito Lozano obituary

Originally published November 2, 2017

Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/11/01/12572

Jeanie M. Fortado obituary

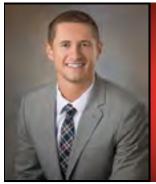
Originally published November 9, 2017 Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent. com/2017/11/08/12901/

David Lee Mosher obituary Originally published November 17, 2017

> Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/11/16/ barr-memorial-chapel-obituary-david-lee-mosher-66-fort-madison/

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Nissa Rung, Advertising (319).520.8953 n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising

(319).470.0622

sross@pencitycurrent.com

Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

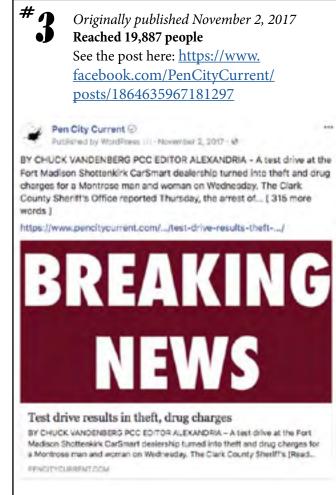


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Top November Jacebook Posts













Originally published November 8, 2017

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The Buffalo will roam to FM

Gibb purchases west end's Chandler's to bring iconic Burlington eatery to Fort Madison

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - This spring, the Fort Madison area will be home to one of Burlington's most iconic eateries.

Chase Gibb, the owner of The Buffalo Tavern on Burlington's south side, announced today that he has

purchased Chandler's Bar and Grill on

the west end of Fort Madison and has plans to open under the new name The Buffalo Bar and Grille by St. Patrick's He said he had heard the location

might be for sale about four months ago and about 10 days ago a group of people with the ownership group showed up at The Buffalo in Burlington for lunch and a conversation took place

that resulted in Gibb agreeing to the location.

"The timing is right with the ownership group and a couple of them expressed interest in talking to me about it, and actually, they just showed up for lunch and we had a good conversation," Gibb said Thursday

Gibb said he's purchasing the property outright and won't be leasing or renting.

"We plan to take over on March 1, but I want to point out that Chandler's will still be open and serving customers until that transition date," Gibb said.

He said he has a proven record of success in Burlington with the menu and environment he provides and





will bring that same menu to the Fort Madison location.

"We have a menu that's proven successful here in Burlington and we're going to bring that to Fort We've won

Madison. awards tenderand our was Originally published Top 5 in the **December 15, 2017** Iowa Pork

We've got steaks, prime rib, boneless wings, and tacos that we're bringing to Fort Madison. We'll probably do the tacos on Monday

like we do up here."

Gibb's operations were also singled out with a Distinction Award from the Greater Burlington Partnership in 2015.

Gibb said he thinks the two entities can be similar in offerings and programming because of their proximity to each other, but he does have some upgrades in mind.

"I've been pricing some big screens because we'll need some TVs in there and we'll probably redo a lot of the upholstery and some updates like that," Gibb said. "We may have to close down for a week to get some of that stuff done and get the signs changed, but I'm going to work with a pretty hefty budget there."

See **RESTAURANT**, page 8

Top November Jacebook Posts

for our

loin locally

tenderloin

tenderloin

state by the

Producers.

named a







Three FM residents picked up on drug charges

FORT MADISON – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrests of multiple Fort Madison residents on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Samanatha Suzanne Kellum, 29, of 2802 Avenue O, was arrested on Dec. 15 in the 2300 block of Highway 61 on felony drug charges. Kellum is charged with aiding and abetting the delivery of crack cocaine, a class C felony, delivery of crack cocaine, a class C felony, and possession with intent to deliver crack cocaine, a class C felony. If convicted, Kellum faces up to 30 years in a state





KELLUM

correctional facility. The arrest of Kellum stems from an investigation by the Lee

County Narcotics Task
Force into allegations
that she was involved in
the distribution of illegal
drugs in the Lee County
area. Kellum was located
during a traffic stop conducted by a Lee County
Sheriff's Deputy. Items
that support the charges
were located during the
traffic stop.

In an unrelated matter, Matthew Wayne Land, 55, of 1026 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, and Cody Dale Kussman, 29, of 1512 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa, were both arrested on various drug charges on December 10th, 2017 in the 4100 block of Main Street in Keokuk, Iowa.
Land is charged with
possession with intent to
deliver marijuana second
or subsequent offense,
a class D felony with an
enhancement, possession
of methamphetamine 3rd
or subsequent offense, a
class D felony, possession
of drug paraphernalia, a
simple misdemeanor, and
possession of marijuana,
a serious misdemeanor. If
convicted, Land faces up



LAND

to 21 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. Kussman

is charged with drug

possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Kussman faces up to 30 days in the Lee County Jail.

The arrests of Land

and Kussman stem from a traffic stop conducted by a Lee County Deputy. During the traffic stop, items that support the charges were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in these investigations.

The defendants are



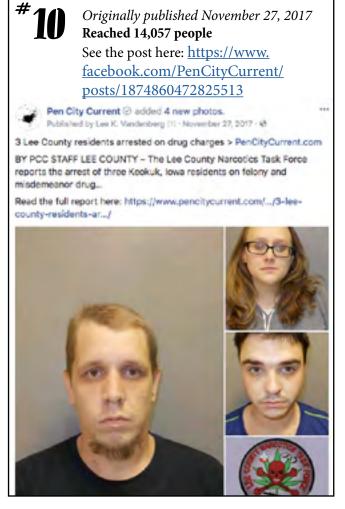
KUSSMAN

presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee

County
Narcotics Task Force is
funded in part by the U.S.
Department of Justice
and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug
Control Policy.

Top November Jacebook Posts







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FM man jailed for attempted murder

Charge stems from early morning Nov. 28 stabbing

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - A 26-year-old Fort Madison man is in custody on attempted murder charges following a November 28 early morning stabbing.

Michael Alan Pauly was apprehended by Fort Madison Police at the Lee County Courthouse Thursday and was transported to Lee County Jail where he remains in

According to reports, on Tuesday at about 2:40 a.m., Fort Madison police were dispatched to the Fort Madison Community Hospital on a report of a possible stab-



bing victim that had been brought into the Emergency Department. Upon arrival officers were unable to determine what had happened.

As officers continued their investigation in the following days, the victim, who has not been identified, was able to provide an account of what had happened. The

victim was able to articulate that they had been stabbed once in the back and had other superficial wounds that led officers to request an arrest warrant for Pauly for attempted murder.

On Thursday, Fort Madison police were dispatched to the North Lee County Court House on a report of a person there who had an outstanding arrest warrant. Upon arrival the court clerks advised that Pauly was there attending a hearing on another matter. As Pauly exited the

courtroom he was taken into custody, processed, and taken to the Lee County Jail on a charge of attempted murder, with a \$50,000 cash only bond.

Attempted murder is a class B felony punishable by up to 25 years in



Originally published

prison. Attempted murder is defined as; any act, which the person expects will set in motion a force or chain of events with the expectation that the action will cause or result in the death of another, with the intent to cause such death.

The arrest of a person is not a plea or finding of guilt. All person are considered innocent until proven in a court of law.

OBITUARIES

DEBRA BETTE SALAZAR

cember 21, 2017 with the family to receive friends

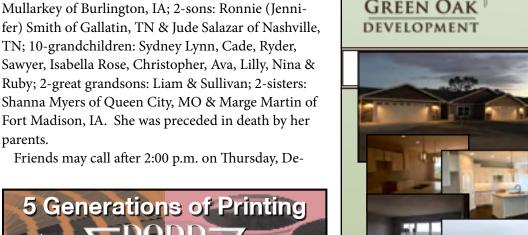
Debra Bette Salazar, 67, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:35 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at



SALAZAR

her home. She was born on October 6, 1950 in Fort Madison, IA to Vernon G. & Louise A. Dossett Jones. She was a homemaker and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, flower gardening and visiting with her friends at 10th Street Station.

Debbie is survived by: her life partner, companion and best friend of 34 years, Ron Marshall of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Danette (Jamie) Baier of Fort Madison, IA & Jenica Salazar Mullarkey of Burlington, IA; 2-sons: Ronnie (Jennifer) Smith of Gallatin, TN & Jude Salazar of Nashville, TN; 10-grandchildren: Sydney Lynn, Cade, Ryder, Sawyer, Isabella Rose, Christopher, Ava, Lilly, Nina & Ruby; 2-great grandsons: Liam & Sullivan; 2-sisters: Shanna Myers of Queen City, MO & Marge Martin of Fort Madison, IA. She was preceded in death by her



from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, December 22, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Pastor Steve Huecker officiating. Burial will be held at Myers Cemetery. A memorial has been established

in Debbie's memory. Online condolences to Debbie's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www. kinglynk.com.





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Duo facing charges in Iowa, Missouri

CHASE - Continued from Page 1

tion Center. Haage and Duncan were both booked into the Clark County Detention Center on a 24-hour investigative hold, pending formal charges, in both Missouri and Iowa.

On Thursday morning, Clark County deputies conducted an inventory search of the Escalade at Brewer and Sons in Kahoka. The search resulted in methamphetamine and drug related items commonly known to be used for distribution.

Multiple agencies assisted in arrests

TASK FORCE - Continued from Page 2

at their residence and items that support the charges were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Hancock County Sheriff's Office assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

Chandler's will be open until transition to Buffalo Bar and Grille

RESTAURANT - Continued from Page 5

He said he would need to change the awning out front and is going to check with city code once the operation is up and running, to see about possibly getting outdoor seating somewhere on the property, possibly the south side.

Lunch delivery and catering are also on the

agenda for Gibb. He said the location is a prime spot as Fort Madison continues to develop, and with the bypass access close by as are many of the city's industrial partners and the hospital.

The tavern in Burlington is a very popular hang out for happy hour

and Gibb said he plans on holding the same happy hour offerings in Fort Madison.

He also said he's met with the current staff at Chandler's and will be keeping the staff in place and will probably, at some point, be adding staff after the re-opening.

The restaurant will

have the same sports bar environment but he said families are welcome. Gibb said he plans on the restaurant being open til midnight during the week and 1 a.m. on the weekend with food available during all hours.

More information on the operations of the Buffalo can be found on the company's Facebook page or on its website.

Removal from council not automatic in city code

ARREST - Continued from Page 3

matic removal.



RIFY

"Obviously I haven't talked with him. Any action would have to come after a fair hearing where he would be able to make his case and bring in witnesses if he wanted and things like that, but if he were convicted, upon conviction I think it takes a 2/3 vote of the full council

to remove him, if that's the action the council would want to take," Varley said. "It's a due process thing."

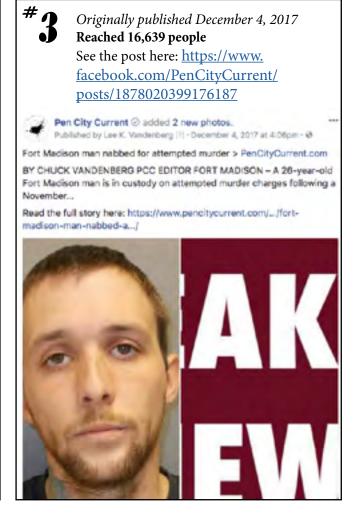
According to the Lee County Sheriff's office Seidel was arrested by law enforcement Friday morning at his home and was taken to the Lee County Jail, where he was given a pre-trial release.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in the investigation.

Top December Jacebook Posts













Top December Jacebook Posts







Top December Stories #6-10

FMCH looking at merger options with GRHS Originally published December 22, 2017 Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/12/22/ fmch-looking-merger-options-grhs/

New P3 system alerts school to issue Originally published December 15, 2017

> Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/12/14/ tip-schools-new-reporting-line-prompts-lockdown/

Tiffany Butler obituary Originally published December 18, 2017 Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/12/17/ king-lynk-obituary-tiffany-butler-18-burlington/

Joni Lynn Wellman obituary Originally published December 14, 2017 Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/12/13/ king-lynk-obituary-joni-lynn-wellman-56-ft-madison/

Area firefighters handle Climax fire Originally published December 18, 2017

Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/12/18/ fm-fire-responds-call-climax-molybdenum/

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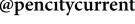












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